

dominated these fields. The book provides an interesting and important chapter in the history of surgery. As Rudolph Matas well said: "His name will remain permanently inscribed in history as one who made surgery better than he found it."

PENICILLIN, ITS PRACTICAL APPLICATION, under general Editorship of Sir Alexander Fleming, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.S., Professor of Bacteriology in the University of London; Discoverer of Penicillin; recipient of the Gold Medal for Medicine and Hygiene and the Cheadle Gold Medal, Clinical Medicine in 1908; awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1944. Cloth edition, Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, 1946; 380 pages with 59 illustrations. Price \$7.00.

This book, as the name implies, attempts to collect all the present knowledge concerning penicillin with the object of applying that knowledge to practical use in the treatment of the patient.

Dr. Fleming is not the author of the book, and he, himself, has contributed only the first chapter, "History and Development of Penicillin." This chapter is interesting, well-written and as an introductory chapter establishes a good basic foundation for the specialized chapters that follow. He has invited a number of outstanding English authorities to contribute articles on the different aspects of penicillin and penicillin therapy. The book, therefore, is not a continuous text, but more of an encyclopedic résumé of our present knowledge.

The book is divided into three sections:

The first section is general and résumés and describes the chemistry and manufacture, the pharmacy, the phar-

macology, the bacteriological control of penicillin therapy and the methods of administration. This section is complete, and the student need read no further in order to apply penicillin therapy safely and correctly.

The second section is composed of articles by specialist clinicians detailing the practical use of penicillin to prophylactic use, infections, endocarditis, chest infections, chest surgery, wounds, burns, orthopedics, osteomyelitis, hand infections, abdominal infections, obstetrics and gynecology, sepsis neonatorum, brain and meningeal infections, venereal diseases, ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, dermatology, dental and oral infections, and in animal diseases. Each specialist has attempted to cover his entire field with treatment details for each infection or contingency. Each article repeats and emphasizes the general basic rules as set forth in the first section. Each article is complete in itself and useful to anyone who is limiting his practice to a single field. The general principles are the same as are described in the first section. Nothing new is added, except perhaps individual variations in technique and application.

The third section is a short chapter primarily for the general practitioner. The chapter is a résumé of the book, arranged similar to a quick subject reference.

This book is the most complete authentic volume ever published on the subject of penicillin. Deletion of the repetitious material and combining the specialists' articles, would have made this book outstanding. As it is, it is a valuable book for the general practitioner. It should be at hand as a reference volume in all hospitals and laboratories.

It is hoped that the revised edition will be smaller, more compact and sell at a lesser cost.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE

MALPRACTICE: DEGREE OF SKILL REQUIRED OF A SURGEON: ACTS CONSTITUTING NEGLIGENCE IN TREATMENT

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The California District Court of Appeal recently decided a case (76 A.C.A. 658) involving the degree of skill and care necessary for a surgeon to exercise and held that a physician or a surgeon is not liable for every result which may occur in medical practice, but is required only to exercise the degree of learning and skill ordinarily possessed by physicians of good standing practicing in the same locality and to use ordinary care and diligence in applying that learning and skill to the treatment of his patients.

In this case, plaintiff sued defendant for damages alleged to have resulted from malpractice on the part of defendant in the treatment of an injured arm. At the conclusion of plaintiff's case, a motion for a non-suit was granted and the plaintiff appealed therefrom.

The facts of the case upon which the plaintiff based her action for damages were as follows: Plaintiff alleged that on or about January 4, 1944, she received an injury to her right arm and thereafter employed the defendant physician to treat her injuries. Further the plaintiff contended that the defendant physician had carelessly and

unskillfully operated on and treated the plaintiff's right arm, and that his negligence was the cause of permanent injury to her right shoulder, right elbow and right hand. Plaintiff alleged that defendant physician had manipulated the plaintiff's arm prior to the time when there was sufficient callous formation in the fractured elbow, and that the defendant physician had forcefully and violently manipulated plaintiff's fractured elbow beyond the point of tolerance.

At the trial there was no evidence that the defendant departed from the routine treatment in the circumstances, and there was no evidence that defendant physician failed to exercise that degree of care and skill customarily used by the profession in and about the locality where the treatment was administered. The District Court of Appeal held that the trial court was not in error when it granted the defendant's motion for a non-suit and again enunciated the rule: "The fact, if it is a fact, that the patient fails to respond to treatment, or that the results of an operation are disappointing, does not necessarily establish as a fact, the failure to exercise that degree of care and skill customarily used by the profession in and about the locality where the treatment is administered."